

or wholly eliminated to decrease said immune response, such that upon introduction of the composition into a human, lysis of said cell or tissue is prevented; wherein

31 (a) said class I antigen is masked by contacting said cell or tissue with a masking agent which is capable of forming a complex with said class I antigen on said cell or tissue;

(b) said class I antigen on said cell or tissue is modified by capping; or

(c) said class I antigen on said cell or tissue is partially or wholly eliminated by inhibiting expression of said antigen on said cell or tissue.

32 41. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 36, wherein the antigen is masked with at least two masking agents.

33 59. (Three times amended) A transplantable composition for use in humans comprising a cell or tissue of a type normally bearing an HLA class I surface antigen that causes an immune response against the cell or tissue in a human recipient, wherein the antigen is masked such that upon introduction of the composition into a human, lysis of said cell or tissue is prevented.

60. (Three times amended) A transplantable composition for use in humans comprising a cell or tissue and at least one masking agent, wherein the masking agent binds to an HLA class I surface antigen of the cell or cells comprising the tissue that causes an immune response against the cell or tissue in a human recipient such that upon introduction of the composition into a human, lysis of said cell or tissue is prevented.